

- IV. Claims 55-58, drawn to an apparatus for culturing cells, comprising a support structure and a boundary layer external to the support structure; and wherein the apparatus is inserted into a nutrient circuit; or
- V. Claims 55 and 57-59, drawn to an apparatus for culturing cells, comprising a support structure, a boundary layer external to the support structure, and a container with at least one pressure connection for connection to a pressure source; or
- VI. Claim 60, drawn to a support structure.

The Applicant elects the invention disclosed in Group I (Claims 31-49) drawn to a method for culturing cells on a cell culture chamber comprising three layers: a support structure on which the cells are cultured, an intermediate layer, and an external boundary layer which is impermeable to the cells. It is respectfully requested that, without further action thereon, claims 50-60 be retained in this application pending disposition of this case for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

In addition, in view of the above election of Group I, the Applicant also further elects one of the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- I. Boundary layer material: With respect to the boundary layer material, the Applicant elects the hydrogel (claim 37) for further prosecution along with generic claim 31. It is respectfully requested that, without further action thereon, the remaining claims be retained in this application pending disposition of this case for possible reinstatement or for possible filing in a divisional application(s).
- II. Intermediate layer material: With respect to the intermediate layer material, the Applicant elects the lipid layer (claim 44) for further prosecution along with generic claim 43. It is respectfully requested that, without further action thereon, the remaining claims be retained in this application pending disposition of this case for possible reinstatement or for possible filing in a divisional application(s).

As indicated in the official action, claim 31 is currently generic to the boundary layer material and claim 43 is currently generic to the intermediate layer material. In the event that either or both generic claim(s) is/are allowed during prosecution of this application, as noted above, the Applicant will request reinstatement of all of the species of the invention which are covered by such generic claim(s).

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In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018

**Customer No. 020210**

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: [patent@davisandbujold.com](mailto:patent@davisandbujold.com)